

7. A component supply module as claimed in claim 6, wherein said component restraining element is an elongated strip having a fixed end mounted so said cover and a free end that flexes to move said release position.

[Add new claim 8 as follows:]

8. A component supply module as claimed in claim 7, wherein said component restraining element is a piezoceramic strip, and further comprising: a voltage supply selectively connectable to said piezoceramic strip cause said strip to flex between said restraining position and said removal position.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Cancel the abstract and add a new abstract as follows:

A supply module for feeding electrical components to an automatic component-mounting machine has a locking element which is a piezoceramic bending transducer that extends in the longitudinal direction of the supply module along a supply path for the components. A free end of the locking element projects into a window of the supply module to an extent such that the locking element is located slightly above the component which has been conveyed there and is ready for removal. By applying an operating voltage to the locking element, the locking element can be deflected laterally to an extent such that it is moved out of the coverage region over the component transversely with respect to the component advancing direction.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the specification and claims under Article 41 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty place the application into a form for prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. §371.